

## National Trails Day 2013

House Mountain SNA (east) hosts Small Nature Hike on June 1

Join us at 9 a.m. ET for a small, late spring nature hike on the lower Sawmill Loop Trails at House Mountain. We may see some late spring wildflowers and will definitely hear and see some birds. The total distance is less than one mile and the time less than one hour and the hike is easy. You'll learn tree identification, bird calls and flower identification on this hike. If you have binoculars, bring them and wear good walking shoes. Leader is Lisa Huff, Tennessee Natural Areas Program, [lisa.huff@tn.gov](mailto:lisa.huff@tn.gov). Reservations are required. RSVP to Lisa Huff via email by May 29 and be sure to leave a phone number where you can be contacted in case of inclement weather cancelation.

Devil's Backbone SNA (west) hosts National Trails Day Event on June 1

We will hike the three-mile trail which traverses over dry, upland oak-hickory forests and moist, lowland forest. Along the way we will stop to consider the plants and ecology of the area and also participate in some light maintenance of the trail. Maintenance will include trimming back overhanging vegetation and cutting small trees from the trail. Please bring a pair of hand clippers and a hand saw if you have one. Also bring water and lunch and wear a pair of sturdy hiking boots. The event will begin shortly after 9:30 and go till about 1-1:30 p.m. CT. We will meet at the Devil's Backbone parking area. Leaders: Allan J. Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist. Reservations are required. RSVP by May 30th to Allan J. Trently, [allan.trently@tn.gov](mailto:allan.trently@tn.gov) or 731-512-1369. For more information, including a description, directions, and a map, of Devil's Backbone State Natural Area, visit the Resource Management Division web site at [www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/devils/](http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/devils/).

Virgin Falls SNA (plateau) hosts Day Hike and Litter Pick-up on June 1

Journey through the scenic beauty of one of Tennessee's best-loved hiking trails at Virgin Falls State Natural Area. We will take the strenuous 8-mile trail to the falls. This trail descends off of the Plateau, and meanders along a creek passing caves, sinks and waterfalls. We will have lunch at the falls, which is remarkable due to the water pouring out of a cave mouth at the top of a bluff then falling over a hundred feet before being swallowed up by a sinkhole at the bottom. The trail then backtracks up and out of the gulf to the parking area. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain. Consult a weather report before the trip. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. As with any strenuous backcountry hiking trip, please do not attempt this hike unless you are in good condition and able to negotiate difficult trail situations. We will undertake a brief litter pick-up at the falls. Meet at the Nashville Kroger store parking lot at 5544 Old Hickory Blvd, Hermitage near Summit Medical Center east of town at 7:30 a.m. CT. Forrest Evans, Tennessee Natural Areas Program. Reservations are required. RSVP by May 30 to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431, or [Forrest.Evans@tn.gov](mailto:Forrest.Evans@tn.gov). For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any other State Natural Area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/>.